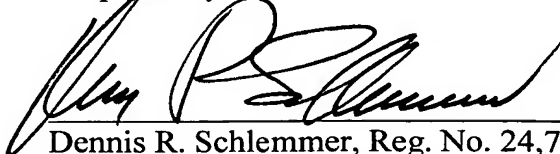


REMARKS

By the foregoing Preliminary Amendment, the specification and claims have been amended to improve their form and clarity for U.S. examination. For convenient reference, a clean copy of the specification is enclosed, together with a complete copy of the specification showing the added and deleted language.

Respectfully submitted,



Dennis R. Schlemmer, Reg. No. 24,703
One of the Attorneys for Applicant(s)
LEYDIG, VOIT & MAYER, LTD.
Two Prudential Plaza, Suite 4900
180 North Stetson
Chicago, Illinois 60601-6780
(312) 616-5600 (telephone)
(312) 616-5700 (facsimile)

Date January 11, 2002

2006250-06405007

CERTIFICATE OF MAILING

I hereby certify that this PRELIMINARY AMENDMENT (along with any documents referred to as being attached or enclosed) is being deposited with the United States Postal Service on the date shown below with sufficient postage as first class mail in an envelope addressed to: Commissioner for Patents, Washington, D.C. 20231.

Date:

Jan. 11, 2002 

2006250-06200001